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ABSTRACT

Resolutions adopted by the 15th session of the General Assembly of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) are provided in this document. These resolutions focus on areas/issues related to: (1) world conservation strategy; (2) conservation and peace; (3) people, resources, and environment; (4) environmental planning; (5) development assistance; (6) urban fringes; (7) role of traditional life styles and local people in conservation and development; (8) environmental education as related to development; (9) renewable energy; (10) genetic resources; (11) tropical moist forests; (12) protection of mangrove ecosystems; (13) protection of free flowing rivers from river engineering; (14) environmental effects of acid rain and snow and other acid deposition; (15) international trade in pesticides; (16) Ramsar Convention; (17) Law of the Sea; (18) deep sea mining and establishment of protected areas of the deep ocean; (19) large and small cetaceans; (20) Antarctica environment and Southern Ocean; (21) preservation of the Great Barrier Reef; (22) South West Tasmania; (23) Micronesian resource management assistance; (24) environmental management in the South Pacific; (25) thanks to host government; (26) international status of IUCN; (27) fund-raising; (28) the resolution procedure; and (29) action points (general, terrestrial, tropical forests, oceans/islands, species, and conventions/international programs). (JN)

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15th Session of the General Assembly of IUCN Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981

RESOLUTIONS

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I. U. C. N.

15/1. WORLD CONSERVATION STRATEGY

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

RECOGNIZING that the World Conservation Strategy (WCS) was launched in March 1980 by IUCN, with the advice, cooperation and financial assistance of UNEP and WWF and in collaboration with FAO and Unesco, and that the theme of the 15th Session of the IUCN General Assembly is "The World Conservation Strategy in Action";

NOTING the wide range of initial actions taken by State, agency and non-governmental members of IUCN to implement the objectives of the WCS;

AWARE of the significant actions of IUCN in incorporating the principles of the WCS into its Programme, into the projects of the Commissions and the establishment of the Conservation for Development Centre;

CONCERNED nevertheless that the implementation of the World Conservation Strategy requires continued and greater effort;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

CALLS UPON all United Nations and other intergovernmental agencies to incorporate the WCS into their own programmes and to encourage and support the development of national conservation strategies, cross-sectoral policy development and similar activities to fulfil the objectives of the WCS;

URGES bilateral and multilateral aid agencies to continue to integrate ecological and other conservation values into development activities which affect renewable resources;

CALLS UPON national, provincial and local governments, governmental agencies, national and international non-governmental organizations to utilize the WCS in developing their programmes and to promote the implementation of the WCS principles by other institutions;

INSTRUCTS Council to continue with the development of the Union's Programme and projects with the help of the members, Commissions and the Conservation for Development Centre and through the Programme Planning Advisory Group, to coordinate and integrate efforts to implement the WCS; and

REQUESTS the IUCN Secretariat to monitor and evaluate actions taken to further the objectives of the WCS and report on such actions to the 16th General Assembly of IUCN.

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15/2. CONSERVATION AND PEACE

RECALLING that the central message of the World Conservation Strategy is that conservation of nature must be made an integral part of the development process;

NOTING that many aspects of nature conservation can only be effectively addressed through international cooperation among States;

RECOGNIZING that this international cooperation is best promoted when mankind is at peace with itself;

RECOGNIZING ALSO principles and recommendations adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (1972), Resolution 35/7 of the 35th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Charter for Nature and on the Historic Responsibility of States for the Preservation of Nature for Present and Future Generations, and the World Conservation Strategy;

CONCERNED that man's future and that of his environment is endangered by war and other hostile actions which negatively offset the economic and ecological situation, including:

- diverting large quantities of monetary and natural resources for armaments;
- discharging toxic and radioactive wastes in the human environment; and
- destroying the habitats which are necessary for species conservation;

RECALLING international agreements concerning weapons of mass destruction on the sea bed; the prohibition of bacteriological and toxic weapons; and the prohibition of military and other hostile use of environmental modification techniques;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

AFFIRMS that peace is a contributory condition to the conservation of nature, just as conservation itself contributes to peace through the proper and ecologically sound use of natural resources;

CALLS UPON all States to pursue diligently international discussions in the United Nations and other fora dedicated to the maintenance of peace and security within and between all States; and

FURTHER CALLS UPON all governments to give full effect to existing international agreements which contribute to the maintenance of peace and the reduction of global armaments.

15/3. PEOPLE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

RECOGNIZING that the conservation of the environment, wise use of natural resources and the stabilization of human population are issues that are fundamentally interrelated and that acceptance of this is crucial to the achievement of these three objectives;

RECALLING the discussion at the 14th General Assembly of IUCN which called for more attention to be given to population increase in relation to conservation;

REALIZING that rapidly increasing human population, wasteful consumption, misuse of technologies and over-exploitation of natural resources lead to soil erosion, desertification, deforestation, loss of cropland, degradation and destruction of species and ecosystems which prejudice the future of mankind;

NOTING that the World Conservation Strategy recognizes that the destruction of natural habitats and the over-exploitation of living resources are intensified by both over-rapid growth in population and social and economic inequities, and refers to the importance of integrating action on the issues of environment, resources and population;

NOTING ALSO that recent international declarations and reports, including the Colombo Declaration of the International Conference of Parliamentarians, the "Global 2000" Report to the President of the United States and the Brandt Commission's "Programme for Survival", have warned that, despite some decline in the global rate of population growth, existing age-structure is such that the annual addition to the world population will continue to increase for the remaining years of the century;

WELCOMING the policies of the International Planned Parenthood Federation and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to increase public and governmental awareness of the inter-relationship between population, development and resources;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need for responsible national population policies and family planning programmes which provide for individual choice;

BELIEVING that appropriate policies, including family planning, which will help to stabilize population and protect the environment and natural resources, are indispensable to combat malnutrition, destitution and ill-health;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

URGES:

- (a) governments to develop strategies which interrelate policies for population, production and consumption, sustainable utilization of natural resources, and the conservation of the environment;
- (b) all countries to develop programmes to educate people, particularly the young, about the relationship between people and their environment and about the contribution every person can make towards survival and quality of life;
- (c) international organizations, particularly the United Nations, to promote the development of the strategies outlined above; and
- (d) IUCN and other non-governmental organizations, such as national supporters of the IUCN, the World Wildlife Fund and the International Planned Parenthood Federation, to develop together projects which demonstrate how conservation of the environment, the wise use of natural resources and family planning can be achieved.

15/4. ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

RECOGNIZING that the importance of comprehensive conservation action is stressed in the World Conservation Strategy and that particular emphasis is placed on the importance of assessing ecosystems, on regional, national and local conservation strategies and on environmental impact assessments;

RECALLING the emphasis placed in the triennial Programme of IUCN on comprehensive environmental planning, as a prerequisite to action within the framework of the World Conservation Strategy;

CONVINCED that conservation and sustainable development are compatible and that a major goal of the Union is to integrate conservation into development planning and decision-making;

AFFIRMING that the objectives of environmental planning should include the conservation, improvement or rehabilitation of natural resources and support for cultural values within the process of development;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

REAFFIRMS the Union's commitment to support nations in elaborating policies, strategies and plans directed towards achieving sustainable development, and to assist in securing relevant expertise;

URGES funding agencies to help meet the costs of effecting appropriate environmental legislation, education and planning and specifically to recognize environmental planning as a means of integrating conservation principles with development; and

URGES FURTHER all nations to assess carefully public and private sector projects and programmes and to provide the legal and administrative framework, including adequate public participation, to ensure that they are directed towards sustainable development.

15/5. DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

AWARE of the enormous damage to ecological processes, species diversity, and sustainable utilization of biological resources which often is caused unnecessarily by development activities, and the very high economic costs which can result from that damage;

RECOGNIZING that development assistance agencies annually disburse more than US\$25,000 million in support of development activities;

RECALLING that the World Conservation Strategy strongly recommends that development assistance agencies fund projects beneficial to conservation, assess all their projects to ensure their ecological soundness and assist governments to design ecologically appropriate policies and to establish and maintain effective conservation infrastructures;

RECOGNIZING that a number of bilateral and multilateral development assistance agencies already have taken actions of the kind recommended in the World Conservation Strategy;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

COMMENDS those development assistance agencies which have taken actions recommended in the World Conservation Strategy; URGES those multilateral and bilateral development assistance agencies which have not already done so to implement the World Conservation Strategy by:

- (a) ensuring that from the first stages of planning, environmental consequences are considered equally with economic and other aspects of every proposed development project;
- (b) ensuring that projects which they support do not cause the extinction or endangerment of species or the destruction of essential ecological processes or unique ecosystems not represented elsewhere;
- (c) supporting projects aimed at the conservation of species and ecosystems, with special emphasis on projects included in the Programme of IUCN;
- (d) assisting developing countries in training conservation administrators and relevant personnel, and in building institutions important to conservation; and
- (e) establishing internal offices with staff responsible for carrying out the above actions.

15/6. URBAN FRINGES

RECOGNIZING that the growth of cities poses particular problems, especially for the Third World and that within two decades, more than half of the world population of over 6 billion will be living in cities and that 12 of the 15 largest ones will be in the Third World;

CONSCIOUS that in the past, cities have been supported by the surrounding countryside in a number of ways: their hinterlands provided food, fuel and water and absorbed urban wastes;

CONCERNED that this former situation is breaking down and many cities, particularly in the Third World, have now exhausted the capacity of their fringes to support further urban growth and that these cities now rely upon food, fuel and water supplies which must be imported over long distances at great cost, particularly to the urban poor;

CONSCIOUS that the edges of many cities have become a new wasteland due to the destruction of local forests and woodland for fuel, building materials, and that the impoverishment of agricultural land is leading to a permanent loss of soil fertility;

CONSCIOUS ALSO that significant areas of prime agricultural land on the fringes of cities, including those in developed countries, are being converted to urban uses and thus permanently lost for food production purposes;

AWARE that landscapes at the edge of cities and the habitat of wildlife which they provide are now increasingly of value for recreation and environmental education and that for most urban dwellers, these areas at the edge of the city provide the only non-urban environment they are ever likely to experience;

CONVINCED FURTHER that only by careful development, combined with conservation measures, can food, fuel and water resources continue to be exploited in a profitable and ecologically acceptable way, to ensure support to a local population and make a better contribution to the welfare of a nearby city;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

DRAWS THE ATTENTION of all nations to the urban fringes of

rapidly expanding cities, particularly but not only in the Third World, that pose special problems for conservation and development which are often overlooked by international, national and local agencies;

CALLS UPON all nations to acknowledge that urban fringes present problems that require coordinated action to ensure that land near cities remains available for sustainable production of food and fuel wood; for the conservation of water supplies, species, and habitats; and for recreation and environmental education; and

URGES all member governments and organizations to take appropriate action to demonstrate that urban fringe management can successfully incorporate the principles of conservation for sustainable development.

15/7. THE ROLE OF TRADITIONAL LIFE STYLES AND LOCAL PEOPLE IN CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

RECOGNIZING that human societies have survived only because they have evolved, within their traditional life styles, a viable relationship between population, land management and conservation;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that patterns of cultural behaviour with respect to nature and particularly the conservation of nature, may be unconscious, and that recognition of this element in behaviour is fundamental to strengthening conservation elements of development programmes and activities;

NOTING that human societies are rapidly losing their original spiritual dimensions, self-reliance and wisdom as they change from traditional life styles to modern ways of life;

NOTING FURTHER that conservation and development are increasingly dominated by urban society, often insensitive to the values and significance of the diverse rural traditions which have supported civilisation over long periods of time;

CONVINCED that traditional conservation systems have much to recommend them, not because of sentimental nostalgia, but because they are based on common sense, are cost-effective and fit in with the needs and wishes of many local communities;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

RECOMMENDS that heads of governments, ministers, members of legislatures, administrators, planners and conservationists:

- (a) take into account the still existing very large reservoir of traditional knowledge and experience within local cultures which must provide a significant basis for the evolution of future management policies and planning actions;
- (b) provide the means for local people who maintain ecologically sound practices to play a primary role in all stages of development in the area they identify with, so that they can participate and benefit directly, in a manner which is consistent with their values, time frames and decision-making processes;
- (c) seek continuous support of these local people in shaping and implementing conservation strategies, programmes and plans, in order to considerably increase conventional conservation potentials for achieving the goals of the World Conservation Strategy; and
- (d) foster further research into the ecology of traditional life styles.

15/8. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AS RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT

OBSERVING that rapid and widespread deterioration of nature and natural resources threatens the quality of life as well as human welfare in all countries;

CONSIDERING that environmental problems may arise due to lack of awareness and understanding of the harmful effects of patterns of production and consumption;

CONVINCED that value and behaviour patterns harmful to the environment can be modified through programmes of environmental education;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

URGES all governments to incorporate as a matter of priority environmental concerns into their national education programmes at all levels;

RECOMMENDS that IUCN and its members continue to develop and carry out in close cooperation with Unesco, an environmental education programme whose aim is to:

- promote ecological awareness in peoples of both developed and developing countries so that they will utilize their natural resources without destroying them;
- generate ecological understanding and concern among the peoples of industrialized countries so that they develop patterns of production and consumption the consequences of which will not be harmful to the environment of developing countries; and
- promote commitment in all countries to the achievement of sustainable development in harmony with conservation principles; and

FURTHER RECOMMENDS that these programmes give high priority to the current decision-makers, and also to youth for it is the generation which will bear a crucial responsibility for the future care of the environment.

15/9. RENEWABLE ENERGY

RECOGNIZING that development of indigenous renewable energy sources, particularly in developing countries, is important in supporting human populations and in combatting poverty by improving social and economic standards;

RECOGNIZING that many nations are heavily dependent on non-renewable resources which are being rapidly depleted; and that renewable energy resources must play an increasingly important role in the global supply of energy;

AWARE that renewable energy development activities, both in developing and developed nations, may have advantages from an environmental standpoint over alternative sources of energy;

CONCERNED, however, that if renewable energy development activities do not take relevant ecological and other conservation factors into account, there could be resultant losses of renewable natural living resources and ecological degradation with long-term detrimental impacts;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that one of the aims of the World Conservation Strategy is to promote the sustainable use of natural living resources and recalling that the Strategy emphasizes that living resource conservation is essential for the development and efficient expansion of environmentally benign forms of energy;

NOTING FURTHER the increasing worldwide interest in renewable forms of energy such as that from biomass, sun, water and wind, an interest evidenced by the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

WELCOMES the continuing interest in renewable sources of energy;

ENCOURAGES the promotion of energy strategies and conservation measures to facilitate a rational transition to sustainable use of renewable energy sources;

DRAWS the attention of national and international energy development agencies to the fact that the harnessing of some renewable forms of energy may not be benign in the effects on the natural environment, for example by interfering with free-flowing rivers or clearing tropical rain forests; and

URGES national and international agencies to ensure that the environmental impact of any energy developments are assessed before decisions are taken to proceed and, when such decisions are taken, that these developments take account of the need to ensure that their design and implementation give adequate attention to ecological processes, living resources and landscape.

15/10. GENETIC RESOURCES

RECOGNIZING that genetic material forms part of the natural heritage of mankind and should therefore remain available to all nations;

AWARE that the conservation of genetic material is essential for the maintenance and development of animal and plant resources for a large number of present and future beneficial uses;

CONSIDERING that States have a duty of stewardship towards the conservation of genetic resources;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that States using these resources should contribute to their conservation;

RECALLING Recommendation No. 39 of the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and the work of FAO, UNEP and Unesco/MAB for the conservation and utilization of genetic resources;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

RECOMMENDS that all countries maintain maximum genetic diversity by means of both *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation measures;

FURTHER RECOMMENDS that national inventories be made of genetic resources whether under public or private control, in gene banks, in protected areas and in traditional cultivation, and that all such resources should in principle be available to potential users, provided that such usage does not permanently impair or destroy genetic resources;

CALLS UPON States using the genetic resources of another country to contribute to their inventory and conservation; and

INSTRUCTS the IUCN Secretariat to undertake an analysis of the technical, legal, and economic and financial matters relating to the conservation, accessibility and use of these resources with a view to providing the basis for an international arrangement and for rules to implement it.

15/11. TROPICAL MOIST FORESTS

NOTING that the tropical moist forests are thought to contain half or more of all plant and animal species;

RECOGNIZING that tropical moist forests are among the most biologically diverse of all ecosystems;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER the vulnerability and fragility of tropical moist forests when subjected to most conventional forms of development, despite technological aids, and when subjected to unsustainable levels of shifting cultivation;

NOTING that if current rates of deforestation continue, a major reduction in biological diversity will inevitably occur;

AWARE that all nations stand to benefit from this major segment of the world's biological heritage, from direct-use benefits such as forest products and medicines, from their important mediating roles in global cycles of elements and water, and from maintenance of a high potential of biological productivity;

RECALLING that the World Conservation Strategy assigns a high priority to urgent actions to conserve tropical moist forests;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

URGES those nations with tropical forests to protect a representative series of the world's tropical moist forest ecosystems and biota, and with appropriate research organizations, develop and improve silvicultural systems to regenerate tropical moist forests and manage them on a sustainable basis;

RECOMMENDS that these nations re-examine their policies with respect to forest clearing and conversion to grazing, agriculture and exotic tree plantations, and discourage trade in tropical moist forest products not harvested on a sustainable basis.

RECOMMENDS FURTHER that adequate systems be established for monitoring the status of tropical forests and rates of deforestation, so that conservation requirements can be identified and actions taken; and

CALLS UPON all development assistance and international funding agencies to scrutinize carefully any projects which result in the clearing of tropical moist forests by including in their cost-benefit analyses all long-term and intangible values which will be lost, and to provide financial assistance for conservation and monitoring activities.

15/12. PROTECTION OF MANGROVE ECOSYSTEMS

WHEREAS the First Report on the Global Status of Mangrove Ecosystems has been prepared by the Commission on Ecology Working Group on Mangrove Ecosystems for the 15th Session of the IUCN General Assembly;

RECOGNIZING that this report has documented the dependence of many millions of people in tropical countries on the food resources, useful materials, and other amenities provided by mangrove ecosystems;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the variety of plants and animals throughout the world which are dependent on mangrove ecosystems for their continuing survival;

NOTING that a substantial portion of the mangrove ecosystems throughout the world are being rapidly degraded or destroyed, often with indirect assistance from international funding and development organizations;

NOTING ALSO that the opportunities to establish protected areas in the last remaining pristine areas are fast disappearing in many countries;

NOTING FURTHER that Unesco has identified mangroves and coastal zones as priority areas of endeavour for the Man and the Biosphere Programme;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

CALLS UPON all governments with mangrove resources to develop a National Mangrove Plan which ideally should be part of a national conservation strategy. The Plan should:

- (a) define the total national mangrove resource by means of maps and inventories;
- (b) assess peoples' needs in relation to sustainable uses of the mangrove resource;
- (c) assess the significance of the mangrove resource in relation to:
 - (i) birds, including migratory birds
 - (ii) genetic resources
 - (iii) coastal stability
 - (iv) marine species;
- (d) define the criteria which must be satisfied for alternative sustainable uses of the resource, prior to any allocation of the resource to such an activity;
- (e) stop shifting aquaculture which has developed in many areas and is damaging mangrove resources;
- (f) implement rehabilitation and replanting of degraded or destroyed mangrove ecosystems;
- (g) include oil spill contingency measures that aim to prevent contamination of mangrove ecosystems which are known to be particularly vulnerable to oil pollution; and
- (h) allocate clear responsibility to an agency with appropriate skills for the conservation and management of the resource; and

CALLS UPON international funding and development agencies to recognize that greater benefits to human populations may be derived from the proper management of existing mangrove resources, than from their conversion to other uses.

15/13. PROTECTION OF FREE FLOWING RIVERS FROM RIVER ENGINEERING

NOTING that undammed wild and scenic rivers provide a broad range of fish and wildlife values as well as scenic and recreational opportunities;

NOTING ALSO that free-flowing rivers are increasingly being dammed for hydro-electric power generation and modified by other river engineering works and have all but vanished from some nations of the world;

AWARE that concern for retaining unmodified rivers is mounting in many parts of the world because of the need to retain ecological diversity as directed by the World Conservation Strategy;

AWARE ALSO of the trend towards further development of hydro-electric energy;

CONCERNED for the maintenance of riverine environments and of ecological, scenic, landscape and recreational diversity offered by the natural flow of rivers through gorges, rapids, waterfalls, forests and wetlands;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

URGES States to set aside permanently, representative examples of their free-flowing rivers, or, where this is not practicable, sections of such rivers, from hydro-damming and other river engineering works, to balance those now permanently lost by modification, and to protect the diversity of ecological, recreational, scenic and landscape values only ensured by retaining the natural flow of rivers; and

RECOMMENDS that classification and management of such designated rivers be the responsibility of an agency whose primary concern is conservation.

15/14. ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF ACID RAIN AND SNOW AND OTHER ACID DEPOSITION

RECALLING the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Human Environment, 1972, and Resolution No. 4 of the 14th Session of the IUCN General Assembly, Ashkhabad, USSR, 1978 on environmental effects of sulphur dioxide pollution;

RECOGNIZING that the Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution, Geneva, 1979 (ECE Convention) was signed by 35 nations in November 1979;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that since 1978 additional scientific documentation has shown that emissions of sulphur dioxide and nitrous oxides in one region have devastating effects on many ecosystems and species in other regions;

OBSERVING that the acid deposition problem has been severe in North America and in Europe, where many aquatic ecosystems have been stripped of life and damage has occurred to forest areas, agricultural crops, and man-made structures of historical value, as well as causing possible hazards to human health;

NOTING that:

- long range transboundary air pollution is an increasingly urgent problem demanding active preventive measures both nationally and internationally;
- significant advances have been made in technologies to combat air pollution at the source; and
- problems of long range transboundary emitted pollutants and the generation of secondary products are aggravated by the use of high stacks;

The General Assembly of IUCN at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

URGES that:

- (a) all nations concerned ratify the ECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution as soon as possible and no later than the 1982 meeting of the Interim Executive Body of this Convention;
- (b) nations outside the ECE region join in other international agreements to control air pollution as rapidly as possible through vigorous efforts to curtail sulphur and nitrogen oxide emissions;
- (c) governments implement actively the obligations of the ECE Convention and other agreements to reduce the total industrial and domestic emissions of sulphur dioxide and nitrous oxides using the best available technology for such pollution reduction; and
- (d) governments use their best endeavours to ensure that no further increases of sulphur and nitrous oxides emission levels are allowed.

15/15. INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN PESTICIDES

AWARE of the harmful effects of certain pesticides on human health and the environment;

INFORMED of the dramatic extent of poisoning due to these substances particularly in developing countries, as revealed by the World Health Organization in a recent report, and documented by information from non-governmental organizations in these countries;

CONCERNED about the long-term detrimental effects of intensive use of these substances on ecosystems through destruction of non-target species, particularly predators, and contamination of food chains;

ALSO CONCERNED about the growing resistance of numerous target species of pests to these substances;

NOTING that hazardous substances, several of which are banned in their country of origin for health and environmental reasons, are being exported to developing countries which lack information on their effects and lack the capacity to enforce adequate controls on pesticide use;

HAVING REGARD to the urgent appeals for a regulation and restriction of the export of potentially harmful chemicals by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its 34th session in Resolution 34/173 of 17 December 1979 and by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its 8th session in Resolution 8/8 of 29 April 1980;

The General Assembly of the IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

CALLS UPON all countries to prohibit the export of pesticides which are banned for domestic use in their country of origin, except:

- (a) for specific purposes for which no alternate means of pest control are available;
- (b) at the explicit request of the government of the importing country; and
- (c) following appropriate notification by the exporter of the health and environmental consequences of the product;

SUPPORTS the Hazardous Substances Export Policy adopted in 1980 by the U.S. Government and regrets that this policy has since been abandoned; and

URGES particularly the Member States of the European Communities to take appropriate measures for the control of pesticides export.

15/16. RAMSAR CONVENTION

NOTING that the number of Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the "Ramsar Convention") is now 30 and that they have together designated over 230 wetlands, covering nearly 7 million hectares, for the List of Wetlands of International Importance;

AWARE that the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in November 1980 at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Italy at Cagliari in Sardinia, with participation of 21 Contracting Parties, 10 States which were not Contracting Parties, five international governmental organizations and five international non-governmental organizations, adopted eleven recommendations on:

- increasing the number of Contracting Parties (1.1);
- increasing the involvement of developing countries (1.2);
- increasing the number of wetlands designated for the List (1.3);
- the use of the criteria adopted at Cagliari for identification of wetlands for the List (1.4);
- the establishment of national wetlands policies (1.5);
- the need, in large-scale wetland transformation, for assessment, in consultation with ecologists, of the values involved (1.6);
- the elaboration of a Protocol providing for additional language versions of the Convention and a procedure for amending the Convention (1.7);
- the consideration of a further Protocol to amend the Convention with a view to extending its effectiveness (1.8);
- the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties (1.9);

- the arrangements for a permanent Secretariat and for interim arrangements until a permanent Secretariat is established (1.10); and
- the effective operation of the Ramsar Convention in Italy (1.11);

INFORMED that, in accordance with Recommendation 1.10 of the Cagliari Conference, a proposal on the Convention Secretariat was drawn up by IUCN in consultation with the International Waterfowl Research Bureau and submitted to the Contracting Parties, and that a number of Contracting Parties indicated their willingness to consider making voluntary contributions to an interim Secretariat;

FURTHER INFORMED that the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at its 9th Session in April 1981 was unable to approve the setting up of a Trust Fund for the Convention, considering that secretariat services should be provided by IUCN on the basis of direct financial contributions from Contracting Parties;

NOTING WITH APPRECIATION that since the Cagliari Conference, some Contracting Parties have taken steps to give effect to some of the Cagliari recommendations, and that several more States have become Contracting Parties or are on the point of so doing;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

REITERATES the value of the Ramsar Convention for wetland conservation, as expressed in Recommendation 1.8 of the Cagliari Conference, and associates itself with all the recommendations of this Conference;

CALLS UPON States which are Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention to give effect to the recommendations of the Cagliari Conference; to pursue as a priority matter the follow-up work for the necessary amendments of the Convention, and in particular - if they have not already done so - to give sympathetic consideration to making voluntary contributions towards the costs of interim arrangements for a Secretariat so that this body could promote effective wetland conservation in 1982; and

FURTHER CALLS UPON States which are not yet Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention to become such as soon as possible, in particular in the Western Hemisphere, the tropics and any State whose accession is required to complete the network of Contracting Parties in the Western Palearctic region.

15/17. LAW OF THE SEA

NOTING the achievements of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea relating to protection of the marine environment and conservation of the marine resources;

AWARE that the marine environment covers 71% of the earth's surface and contains hundreds of thousands of plant and animal species which are interrelated in complex ways;

CONCERNED that human activities in the marine environment not be allowed to cause ecological changes which adversely affect habitats, ecosystems and species;

CONVINCED that implementation of the more than fifty provisions contained in the draft Convention on the Law of the Sea, which involve obligations of major environmental importance, is essential for the protection of the marine environment;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

URGES all States to conclude and then ratify the proposed Convention on the Law of the Sea as soon as possible;

FURTHER URGES States to prepare the laws, rules and standards, at both national and international levels, necessary to implement those provisions of the draft Convention which contain major environmental obligations and responsibilities, and to consult IUCN and other appropriate international organizations in this regard; and

PLEDGES to make IUCN expertise available to States and other bodies and organizations regarding implementation of the proposed Convention.

15/18. DEEP SEA MINING AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS OF THE DEEP OCEAN

OBSERVING that the United Nations General Assembly has declared the deep seabed beyond the limits of national jurisdiction to be the Common Heritage of Mankind;

NOTING that deep sea mining has begun on an experimental basis in the Pacific Ocean and that commercial scale exploitation for minerals is envisioned by the early 1990s;

NOTING ALSO the recent discovery of natural concentrations of copper and other metals in the eastern Pacific on undersea ridges;

AWARE that the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea has agreed that negotiations should be completed in 1982, and that the new Convention will provide a basic structure for regulating deep sea mining to protect the marine environment;

CONSIDERING the scale of our present lack of knowledge about marine ecosystems in the deep ocean and the rapid pace of discovery of new forms of deep ocean life which have existed for millennia free from interference by human activities;

CONCERNED that exploitation could disrupt these ecosystems, impede further understanding of their role and destroy potential alternative values;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

RECOMMENDS the establishment of large sanctuaries in the areas where mining is contemplated in order to further knowledge of the areas of the ocean beyond national jurisdiction and to protect the common heritage of mankind;

FURTHER RECOMMENDS that these sanctuaries or protected areas be established before licensing to explore and exploit the deep ocean begins;

URGES the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, by resolution, to call upon the Preparatory Committee for the new Convention to develop the concept of such protected areas of the deep ocean;

RECOMMENDS ALSO that appropriate international scientific organizations such as IUCN, the International Oceanographic Commission and the Scientific Committee on Oceanographic Research be involved at an early stage in helping to formulate selection criteria for protected areas, recommending suitable areas and preparing research and monitoring proposals and that particular emphasis be given to protection of species and special features such as deep trenches, areas of high volcanism, discontinuities of temperature and chemical composition, and concentrations of deep sea organisms;

URGES that comprehensive ecological surveys be conducted prior to any commercial deep sea mining, and that appropriate areas be designated for baseline reference purposes; and

FURTHER URGES governments, given the unpredictable effects of deep sea mining on marine ecosystems, to ensure that research on the environmental effects of mining, in exclusive economic zones on the continental shelf as well as in the areas beyond national jurisdiction, be increased and that appropriate environmental regulation be imposed based on such research.

15/19. LARGE AND SMALL CETACEANS

BEING AWARE that the view is now held by the people of the majority of nations of the world that for scientific, ecological and aesthetic reasons whales should no longer be killed for industry;

RECOGNIZING there is strong pressure within the International Whaling Commission to establish a moratorium on commercial whaling as a matter of urgency;

RECALLING that in 1972 the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm called for a ten-year moratorium on commercial whaling as a matter of urgency, which was subsequently endorsed by the United Nations;

FURTHER RECALLING the resolution of IUCN at its 14th General Assembly in Ashkhabad in 1978 that IUCN shall continue

to call for a moratorium on commercial whaling until five conditions had been met;

RECOGNIZING that trade in sperm, fin and sei whale products was banned by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) when those species were added to Appendix I of that Convention in February 1981;

NOTING that the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling 1946 can provide for the proper conservation of all species of cetaceans;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

CALLS on member nations of the International Whaling Commission to achieve a cessation of commercial whaling as soon as possible;

URGES all nations to work to ban all whaling outside the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling;

RESOLVES that IUCN and its members shall actively promote adherence to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling by all nations, both whaling and non-whaling;

STRESSES the need for continuation of benign research on living whales under the auspices of the International Whaling Commission after passage of the moratorium;

RECOMMENDS to nations in which subsistence whaling is undertaken by or on behalf of indigenous people living a traditional way of life that they ensure that the whaling is conducted solely for subsistence purposes using non-wasteful and humane techniques and at a level which will ensure a return of whale species to optimum population levels;

FURTHER RECOMMENDS that where feasible, nations and local populations convert direct taking of whales to benign uses such as promotion of tourism through organized whale-watching programmes that are properly regulated to avoid negative impacts on the whales or their essential life support processes;

RECOMMENDS that the International Whaling Commission:

(a) through its Scientific Committee, collect data progressively on populations of small cetaceans and on the extent of harvesting of such cetaceans, and subsequently regularly monitor these populations and report on their status, and propose further research;

(b) on the basis of this inventory and analysis include on the Schedule of the Convention those populations of small cetaceans in need of protection;

(c) give priority to populations that appear to be in a critical situation; and

(d) immediately include on the Schedule those populations which the Scientific Committee has recommended to be classified as protection status stocks; and

CALLS FURTHERMORE upon the governments concerned to take note of the Scientific Committee's recommendations with respect to belugas and narwhals and to take appropriate management action within areas under national jurisdiction.

15/20. ANTARCTICA ENVIRONMENT AND THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

PREAMBLE

1. RECOGNIZING the importance of Antarctica and its Continental shelf ("the Antarctica environment") and the Southern Ocean for the world as a whole, particularly in maintaining the stability of the global marine environment and atmosphere, and the paramount importance to mankind of its great wilderness qualities for science, education and inspiration;

2. RECALLING the continued and long established interest that IUCN has in the conservation of the ecosystems of the Antarctica environment as well as in the conservation of the species and habitats that it supports;

3. MINDFUL that the World Conservation Strategy (prepared by IUCN with the advice, cooperation and financial assistance of UNEP and WWF and in collaboration with FAO and Unesco)

identifies Antarctica and the Southern Ocean as a priority for international action;

4. NOTING that eleven Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties are represented in IUCN and that they have already espoused the aims of the World Conservation Strategy;
5. AWARE of the achievements of the Consultative Parties in their stewardship under the Antarctic Treaty in protecting the Antarctica environment from harmful interference, and the provision of measures for the conservation of flora and fauna, guidelines to minimize harmful effects of human activities, and measures specifically related to tourism activities;
6. COGNIZANT ALSO of the fact that the Consultative Parties are presently considering the establishment of a regime to govern both commercial exploration and exploitation of any mineral resources should this ever prove acceptable and that any exploitation of minerals would adversely affect the values of the Antarctica environment;
7. FURTHER AWARE of the additional efforts of the same nations to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of the living resources of the region, in particular by the initiative taken to negotiate and adopt the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals (1972) and the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (1980);
8. TAKING NOTE of the action taken by the International Whaling Commission with regard to whaling in the Southern Ocean and the relevance to that ocean of other activities affecting conservation of the marine environment generally;
9. RECALLING that the Second World Conference on National Parks in 1972 recommended that nations Party to the Antarctic Treaty should establish the Antarctic Continent and surrounding seas as the first World Park and that other protective designations are being proposed to reflect the unique status of the area;
10. CONCERNED further that the effective planning, management and conservation of the Antarctica environment can only be achieved by thorough consideration of feasible alternatives and if all actions are based on restraint and scientific knowledge, as well as through cooperation and coordination;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

THE ANTARCTICA ENVIRONMENT

GENERAL

11. STRONGLY RECOMMENDS that the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties should further enhance the status of the Antarctica environment and foster measures which would:
 - (a) maintain for all time the intrinsic values of the Antarctica environment for mankind and the global ecosystem;
 - (b) ensure that all human activities are compatible with the maintenance of these values; and
 - (c) ascribe to the Antarctica environment as a whole a designation which connotes worldwide its unique character and values and the special measures accorded to its planning, management and conservation;
12. URGES the Parties to ensure the protection of the Antarctica environment from harmful interference, as expressed in Recommendation 5 of the Ninth Meeting of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties;

MINERALS

13. URGES that no mineral regime be brought into operation until such time as full consideration has been given to protecting the Antarctica environment completely from minerals activities and the environmental risks have been fully ascertained and safeguards developed to avoid adverse environmental effects;

COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION

14. URGES the Consultative Parties to recognize the increased interest in the Antarctica environment of the world community, and therefore that they:
 - (a) mobilize and draw upon the goodwill and expertise freely

available to support their work by effective communication and consultation with interested parties;

- (b) foster, through well-informed public interest and awareness, educational measures based on accurate reporting and dissemination of their policies and actions in relation to the Antarctica environment; and
 - (c) invite representatives from appropriate non-governmental organizations (including IUCN and the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition) to participate in meetings according to normal international practice;
15. FURTHER URGES national delegations to the Antarctic Treaty to keep fully in touch and consult with NGOs in their countries concerned with the Antarctica environment and to include advisers from these bodies in their delegations;

MEMBERSHIP

16. URGES all nations concerned with the future of the Antarctica environment not yet Party to the Antarctic Treaty to accede to that treaty;

RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION - GENERAL

17. CONSIDERS that the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties should ensure that research and conservation action is coordinated and that, as a priority, the research programmes needed to protect the Antarctic ecosystem and allow for informed decision-making are ascertained, together with the institutions best suited to undertake them;
18. URGES full support to on-going scientific efforts and the undertaking of long-term, large-scale cooperative research programmes focused on the ecological structure and processes of the Antarctica environment and on their role with regard to globally relevant phenomena, such as weather and climate;
19. STRESSES the necessity to possess sufficient results of such research before management decisions are taken with regard to both living and non-living resources and the need to maintain this research effort so that such decisions may be related to a continuously evolving situation;
20. CALLS UPON the Consultative Parties to take the lead in such research and conservation programmes;
21. URGES all organizations whose activities and expertise are of relevance to these research and conservation tasks to contribute as appropriate;
22. PLEDGES the support and expertise of IUCN in the establishment and carrying out of such programmes;
23. AND PARTICULARLY RECOMMENDS that:
 - (a) the Consultative Parties expand the network of sites meriting special protection within the overall framework of measures for the Antarctica environment;
 - (b) continued attention be given to coordination of research and other activities now being carried out in Antarctica to prevent or minimize harmful environmental consequences such as air pollution and wastes;
 - (c) continuous monitoring be made of the consequences of tourism activities, applying strict controls as necessary;
 - (d) the possible ecological impact of the utilization of icebergs be studied and ascertained well in advance of any such utilization; and
 - (e) vigilance be exercised on the implementation of the measures prohibiting the introduction of alien species;

THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES 1980

25. EXPRESSES its satisfaction that the Antarctic Marine Living Resources Convention provides the elements necessary to realize an ecosystem approach to the conservation and management of the natural resources of the area;
26. PLEDGES to make IUCN expertise available to the Commission and the Scientific Committee created under the Convention and urges the development of cooperative relationships with the Commission and Scientific Committee, as foreseen by Article XXIII of the Convention;

27. **RECALLS** that the dynamics of the Southern Ocean are still poorly known, and urges the Parties to the Convention to exercise caution in its implementation by:
- (a) developing all fisheries only in conjunction with scientific advice designed to provide the best understanding of the functioning of the ecosystem; and
 - (b) establishing, as a consequence, all such fisheries on an experimental basis for an adequate length of time, with an initial conservative quota by area and appropriate enforcement of such quotas;
28. **URGES** further that:
- (a) as a high priority, feeding grounds of threatened and endangered whales be identified and closed to krill fishing;
 - (b) some areas be closed to fishing *ab initio*, and at least one large sanctuary be established where krill harvesting would be prohibited or permitted only for scientific purposes, in order to provide for adequate baseline areas;
 - (c) an evaluation be made of the role and status of finfish and squid before substantial exploitation takes place;
 - (d) all data be provided, on an agreed standardized scientific basis, including that from fishing operations carried out over a reasonable past period of time, to facilitate the establishment of a central data bank which can utilize data from all relevant sources;
 - (e) appropriate coordination of objectives and activities under the International Whaling Commission be established, in particular regarding the implementation of measures aiming at the recovery of those whales whose populations have been depleted;
 - (f) the development of dynamic models of the Southern Ocean ecosystem be initiated, bearing in mind the depletion of many whale species; and
 - (g) in the process of developing the fishery on a scientific basis, the development of cooperative relationships with appropriate organizations be effectively carried out;
29. **RECOMMENDS** further that the Parties to the Convention better inform the scientific and conservation communities of the action they take to protect the Southern Ocean, including reporting on discussions and actions pertaining to environmental conservation issues, and inviting representatives from appropriate NGOs (such as IUCN and ASOC) to participate in appropriate meetings;
30. **URGES** that IUCN be given accredited status as an adviser to the Scientific Committee of the Convention Commission;
31. **FURTHER URGES** all nations concerned with the future of the Antarctica environment and the Southern Ocean to support the operation of the Convention and to accede to it as soon as possible;
32. **RECOMMENDS** that, notwithstanding current worldwide economic difficulties, the significance of the Southern Ocean demands that it be accorded high priority in the allocation of resources adequate to ensure the effective operation of the Commission and its Scientific Committee;
- THE MINERALS OF ANTARCTICA**
33. **COMMENDS** the Consultative Parties for their decision to refrain from exploration of Antarctic mineral resources for the time being;
34. **URGES** that the Treaty Parties keep IUCN and the scientific and conservation communities well informed of any proposed activities in the Antarctica environment and *urges* further that they seek the views of IUCN on any of these which would affect the conservation of the Antarctica environment; and
35. **PLEDGES** to make IUCN expertise available to the Treaty Parties and other bodies and organizations as appropriate to conduct, or cooperate in conducting, studies necessary to ensure that activities carried on in Antarctica have minimum environmentally adverse effects.

15/21. PRESERVATION OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

APPRECIATING that the Commonwealth of Australia has

legislated to protect the Great Barrier Reef by the enactment of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act, 1975;

AWARE that, on the recommendation of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Australia has declared the Capricornia Section of the Great Barrier Reef, a Marine Park;

NOTING that the Australian Government has retained the option to allow oil exploration and exploitation in proximity to the Great Barrier Reef;

RECALLING that oil slicks from the 1979 IXTOC II oil well blow-out in the Gulf of Mexico travelled a distance of over 1000 km;

NOTING FURTHER that development for tourism, of islands and the coastline within the Great Barrier Reef territory, might prejudice plans to be developed for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park;

EXPRESSING CONCERN that only 2.4% of the Reef Region has so far been declared as marine park territory in the 6 years of operation of the Great Barrier Marine Park Act;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

CONGRATULATES the Australian Government for passing excellent legislation establishing the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority;

STRONGLY URGES the Australian Government to declare without further delay the whole of the Great Barrier Reef as a marine park and to prohibit oil exploration and exploitation in the Region; and

RECOMMENDS that adequate funds should be made available to provide for the effective management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

15/22. SOUTH WEST TASMANIA

CONSIDERING that South West Tasmania is one of the last great wilderness areas in the temperate parts of the world, that it is listed on the Register of the National Estate as part of the national heritage of Australia, and that it has been approved by the State Government of Tasmania for nomination for the World Heritage List;

NOTING that the wilderness valleys and gorges in the cool temperate rain forests of South West Tasmania are the home of endangered endemic species and include important archaeological sites dating back over 20,000 years with valuable evidence of the earliest aboriginal habitation in Tasmania;

RECALLING the long and active involvement of the IUCN in the protection of South West Tasmania and the approaches the Union has made to the Tasmanian Government over several years in support of the conservation of the region's wilderness against environmental damage by hydro-electric power development in the Gordon and Franklin Rivers;

AWARE ALSO that IUCN gave valuable support to the recent establishment by the Tasmanian Government of the Wild Rivers National Park conserving the valleys of the Lower Gordon and Franklin Rivers;

CONCERNED THAT the South West wilderness of Tasmania has been subject to so much development to produce hydro-electricity, minerals and forest products since 1960 that the world significance of the remaining area will be lost if current hydro-electric power proposals for the Gordon and Franklin Rivers proceed;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

CONGRATULATES the Tasmanian Government on the declaration of the Wild Rivers National Park;

CALLS UPON the Tasmanian Government to extend national park status and protection to all of the remaining South West wilderness and, in particular, to refrain from any proposals to dam the Gordon and Franklin Rivers; and

FURTHER CALLS UPON the Federal Australian Government to protect the South West Tasmanian wilderness from further hydro-electric, forestry, or mineral industry incursions, including the current proposals to dam the Gordon and Franklin Rivers, in order to establish in Tasmania a secure area of world significance in the preservation of wilderness reserves.

15/23. MICRONESIAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE

RECOGNIZING that the environments of Belau (formerly known as Palau) and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) represent unique marine and island habitat;

CONVINCED that the future of the people of these new nation States depends upon the wise management of these resources;

CONVINCED ALSO that this setting is ideal for the development of resource management regimes that are based upon the principles embodied in the World Conservation Strategy;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

ENDORSES the offering of assistance to these new States in:

- (a) developing national conservation strategies as part of comprehensive economic development plans that are now under preparation;
- (b) drafting and analyzing laws and regulations for consideration by the Micronesian Governments in establishing resource management institutions;
- (c) bringing international experts in resource management, environmental law, planning and education into contact with Micronesian officials to assist in assessing and resolving specific environmental problems as they arise;
- (d) assisting the Micronesian Governments in assessing and responding to environmentally sensitive activities by foreign corporations or governments; and
- (e) developing training programmes for indigenous people on conservation, resource management, environmental law and environmental education so as to lessen the degree of dependency by Micronesians on outside assistance; and

CALLS on the Government of the United States, as trustee of the UN Trust Territory of which these States are part, to support this programme both with funding and with the expertise of appropriate agencies.

15/24. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

AWARE that the countries of the South Pacific region have approved the launching of a South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP);

AWARE ALSO that the Second South Pacific Conference on National Parks and Reserves, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia on 27 April 1979 urged that all countries participate actively in SPREP and that conservation requirements and projects be incorporated wherever possible in national environmental programmes;

ACKNOWLEDGING with satisfaction the wide active support to date by countries of the South Pacific region for SPREP;

NOTING that a Conference on the Human Environment in the South Pacific is to be held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, in March 1982 as the next main step of SPREP;

BEARING IN MIND that Pacific countries are commonly recognized as having particularly attractive physical environments and that those with oceanic island ecosystems are unusually fragile and sensitive;

RECOGNIZING that the objectives of the World Conservation Strategy cannot be achieved unless environmental concern and development are partners in the promotion of human well-being and unless ecological and other conservation values become an integral part of the whole development process along with economic, technical and social consideration;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

CONGRATULATES the countries of the South Pacific Region on their establishment of, and widespread support for, the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme;

ENDORSES the recommendation of the Second South Pacific Conference on National Parks and Reserves to all countries of the South Pacific region that conservation requirements and projects

be incorporated wherever possible in national environmental programmes;

ENCOURAGES all countries of the region to consider becoming Party to the Convention on Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific so that it may come into force;

REQUESTS that the IUCN Conservation Programme for Sustainable Development should give emphasis to conservation issues in the sensitive oceanic islands ecosystems and to conservation of the marine environment in the South Pacific; and

INVITES the multilateral and bilateral aid agencies, the United Nations and other international organizations to give special practical attention to the conservation needs of the countries of the South Pacific region in the environmental management field.

15/25. THANKS TO HOST GOVERNMENT

RECOGNIZING the complex planning and organization requirements involved in the preparation and running of an IUCN General Assembly;

VERY MUCH AWARE that the Organizing Committee and numerous other persons have been working tirelessly over the past three years to ensure its success;

CONSCIOUS of the outstanding facilities available for the Assembly, and the unique opportunities for participants to familiarise themselves with the beauties of the natural resources of their host country;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

RECORDS its warmest appreciation and grateful thanks to the Government of New Zealand and to the City of Christchurch for the hospitality extended to the Union and all the participants in the General Assembly;

FURTHER RECORDS its great appreciation to the members of the Organizing Committee and to the agencies and volunteers involved for their outstanding work over the past years and throughout the General Assembly; and

EXPRESSES its grateful thanks to the numerous persons who have contributed their time and energy to assist the Organizing Committee in the preparation and running of a most successful General Assembly.

15/26. INTERNATIONAL STATUS OF IUCN

ACKNOWLEDGING with gratitude the hospitality of the Swiss Confederation and the Canton de Vaud for the IUCN Secretariat at Gland, the efforts of the Swiss federal, cantonal and municipal authorities to support the work of IUCN, and the desirability of maintaining the IUCN headquarters in Switzerland;

CONSCIOUS of the lack of a headquarters agreement conferring international status on the IUCN Secretariat, and of the ensuing disadvantages for the work of the organization;

RECALLING that IUCN has an international membership including 56 sovereign States and 116 government agencies, derives a large proportion of its funding from public sources, and according to its objectives exclusively undertakes activities in the public interest;

NOTING with appreciation also that the Government of Kenya by Legal Notice No. 49/1980 has conferred on IUCN the privileges and immunities of an international organization;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

INSTRUCTS the Director General to enter into negotiations with the competent Swiss authorities for the early conclusion of an international headquarters agreement;

URGES the Government of Switzerland to use its best endeavours to confer such legal status on the IUCN Secretariat as will facilitate the international functions and activities of IUCN; and

CALLS on all States in which IUCN undertakes activities likewise to use their best endeavours to confer such legal status as may be necessary to carry out those activities.

15/27. FUND-RAISING

RECOGNIZING that IUCN's ability to carry out its functions is dependent upon adequate and secure financial resources;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that existing sources of funds for IUCN while generous and appreciated are not sufficient to meet the varied and urgent calls upon them;

AWARE of the difficult economic situation in the world but recognizing also the contribution IUCN makes to the solution of these problems;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October:

EXPRESSES its gratitude to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for their partnership and generous support;

EXPRESSES ALSO its gratitude to those States and non-governmental members which have made special contributions in money or in kind beyond and above their statutory dues;

CALLS on all State, agency and non-governmental members of the Union and funding agencies to provide increased support for IUCN; and

INSTRUCTS the Director General to pursue actively sources of new funding, whether for capital or for operating expenses, to coordinate any fund-raising activities by components of IUCN such as the Commissions, and to maintain close contacts in this regard with WWF.

15/28. RESOLUTIONS PROCEDURE

RECOGNIZING the far-reaching importance of resolutions passed by IUCN General Assemblies;

NOTING that State members of IUCN and international organizations are formally requested to take action on such resolutions;

CONCERNED that the majority of resolutions are not made available to member governments and organizations in draft form until each General Assembly takes place;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

RESOLVES to amend Rule 13 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly as follows:

Rule 13(2) is amended to add the following:

"Motions which propose the adoption of resolutions shall be submitted as drafts, with any available supporting material, to the IUCN Secretariat not less than 90 days before the next General Assembly. The Secretariat shall circulate all draft motions of this sort which are received by it to all members at least 60 days in advance of each General Assembly."

"However, motions of this sort may be submitted at the General Assembly if the subject of the motion is new, urgent, could not be foreseen, arises out of deliberations of the General Assembly, or responds to matters before the General Assembly. The text of such motions shall be distributed to delegates by the Secretariat."

Rule 13(6) is amended to add the following:

"Motions referred to a committee shall be reported to the General Assembly at the earliest opportunity. When many motions are referred to this committee, it shall provide interim reports in which it transmits to the delegates the texts of motions considered acceptable by that date."

Rule 13(7) is amended to add the following:

"If a committee or the Council recommends rejection of a motion, any delegate may propose further consideration of such a motion by the General Assembly with the concurrence of five (5) other delegates."

15/29. ACTION POINTS

NOTING the large number of draft resolutions submitted to the 15th General Assembly and that the action points therein were discussed in the Technical Meeting;

BEING AWARE that many of these draft resolutions address significant conservation issues which require action by Council or the Director General;

FURTHER NOTING that the action points arising from these draft resolutions, as modified in the Technical Meeting, are reproduced below;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

INSTRUCTS Council to initiate, on behalf of the General Assembly, appropriate measures which may include communicating with governments and international organizations concerned, on these action points with particular emphasis on matters of urgency, and to report to members within one year.

A. GENERAL

A.1 Commending to the people and governments of other countries the concepts introduced in the development and application of the World Conservation Strategy in New Zealand;

A.2 Recommending that social scientists, community development experts and environmental education experts should become involved in the implementation of the World Conservation Strategy in general and the development and execution of environmental education focussed especially on the conservation of nature and natural resources; and urging IUCN to invite other international organizations, such as Unesco, to support the implementation of the World Conservation Strategy in the field of education by making available their expertise in social sciences;

A.3 Drawing the attention of all member governments and organizations to the need for a comprehensive approach to landscape analysis related to environmental planning programmes for conservation and development; and

A.4 Inviting member governments to inform their people of elementary measures for avoiding rabies and urgently recommending that they develop alternative methods of rabies prevention.

B. TERRESTRIAL

B.1 Urging governments to submit candidate sites for inclusion in the international Biosphere Reserve network and, together with aid-giving organizations, to provide assistance for the establishment of Biosphere Reserves particularly in arid, semi-arid and mountain regions of the world, and for the conduct of research in such reserves to aid in the assessment of the sustainability of resources development.

B.2 Urging the Government of the Republic of Korea to protect the Nakdong Delta as a nature reserve and declare an immediate moratorium on further development that might affect this internationally important wetland;

B.3 Urging the authorities concerned to protect and maintain the marshes of southern Spain;

B.4 Urging the responsible French authorities to preserve the coastal wetlands remaining between Marseilles and Perpignan as a feeding ground for migratory birds;

B.5 Asking the New Zealand authorities responsible for Lake Ellesmere, and a complex of northern harbours including Parengarenga, Rangunu, Manukau, Kaipara and the Firth of Thames to maintain their ecological value and to have them listed as wetlands of international importance;

B.6 Urging the Greek authorities to reassess proposals to establish a petrochemical plant in the Bay of Missolonghi, and to examine alternative sites;

B.7 Urging governments in tropical areas and in the Southern Hemisphere to preserve representative peatlands;

B.8 Urging the Government of Ireland to safeguard the last examples of peatlands which are characteristic natural phenomena of the country;

B.9 Recommending to the Government of the United Kingdom to take all practical steps to secure for the Cairngorm Mountains protection appropriate to their international significance;

- B.10 Recommending that nations or States considering projects involving diversions of rivers or streams flowing into estuaries and seas first make comprehensive environmental surveys and plans, review the effects of diversions and restrict withdrawals or diversions of water so that there is only a minimal impact on fisheries, estuaries and seas;
- B.11 Calling upon the Government of New Zealand to use native plants when undertaking a programme to convert New Zealand into a total garden paradise unprecedented anywhere in the world; and
- B.12 Urging members of IUCN and its Commissions to offer assistance to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt in the preparation and implementation of a conservation strategy for the Sinai peninsula and surrounding area; calling upon governments and non-governmental organizations to provide on request from the Arab Republic of Egypt, additional support and technical assistance as may be appropriate; and suggesting that consideration be given by the Arab Republic of Egypt to submission, to the World Heritage Secretariat at Unesco, of areas for consideration as World Natural Heritage sites, in particular the high mountain area surrounding St. Catherine's monastery, and the coral reef ecosystem of Ras Muhammed and its surroundings.

C. TROPICAL FORESTS

- C.1 Urging protection of adequate samples of the rain forests of eastern Australia, and that any development of the remainder be under safeguards which will ensure sustainable forest production;
- C.2 Urging the Governments of Queensland and New South Wales to stop the exploitation of Australia's moist tropical and subtropical forests and calling upon the Government of Australia to preserve the remainder intact;
- C.3 Recommending to the Government of Papua New Guinea that their forests be developed, bearing in mind the paramount need for environmentally sound management, that research capabilities in forestry and reforestation techniques be increased, that priority be given to the examination of the economic use of forests which have less environmental impact and that an evaluation be undertaken immediately of present forest policy;
- C.4 Requesting the assistance and financial support of concerned international organizations, such as FAO, Unesco and UNEP, for projects aimed at training of personnel, local populations and tourist awareness, as well as prevention of poaching in the habitat of the mountain gorilla in the border area of Zaire, Rwanda and Uganda;
- C.5 Urging the Governments of Ivory Coast, Guinea, and Liberia, to protect the Mount Nimba area;
- C.6 Urging the Governments of Senegal, Guinea, and Guinea-Bissau to cooperate in the protection of vegetation in the Fouta Djallon high plateau; and
- C.7 Recommending the recycling of paper in order to conserve tropical forests.

D. OCEANS AND ISLANDS

- D.1 Urging the Government of New Zealand to make available the funds needed for research and management to conserve the endemic animal and plant communities of New Zealand's offshore and outlying islands;
- D.2 Urging the Government of Australia to take the steps necessary to protect Abbott's booby and the other endemic species of Christmas Islands;
- D.3 Urging the Government of Canada to take all possible steps to prevent harm to the fauna of Lancaster Sound due to exploration, exploitation, or transport of gas and oil; and
- D.6 Recommending that scientific data and monitoring results, relevant to the conservation of marine living resources, be collected, exchanged and published both before the development of new commercial fisheries and for existing fisheries.

E. SPECIES

- E.1 Urging governments with resident populations of elephants to provide guaranteed protection for them and recommending that multilateral and bilateral aid agencies and other international organizations fund anti-poaching units and initiate a study on the status of the African elephant;
- E.2 Recommending multilateral and bilateral aid agencies and other international organizations to allocate funds and personnel for the greater protection and investigation of all species of rhinoceros, and urging IUCN member institutions to promote captive breeding programmes;
- E.3 Urging the relevant governments to cooperate in action to reduce seabird mortality in the Northern Hemisphere caused by gillnet fisheries and to develop joint research and monitoring programmes on this problem;
- E.4 Inviting IUCN's Commission on Ecology to study the ecological impact of sport hunting, to establish criteria for the management of wildlife populations and to formulate guidelines for their practical implementation;
- E.5 Urging the Government of Venezuela to take all necessary measures to protect the coastal marshes which are critical to the survival of the flamingo population of the Isle of Bonaire; and
- E.6 Urging the relevant Australian governments to continue their conservation efforts on behalf of *Crocodylus porosus*, including maintaining a prohibition on national and international trade in hides from the wild populations until there is scientific evidence for a sustained major recovery in those populations.

F. CONVENTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

- F.1 Urging all States that have not yet adhered to the *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*, to do so as early as possible in accordance with the recommendation in the World Conservation Strategy, and recommending that Range States of species listed in Appendix 2 of that Convention enter into negotiations immediately with a view to concluding AGREEMENTS under Article 4 as soon as the Convention enters into force;
- F.2 Urging IUCN to promote further ratification and accession to the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*, as well as the strict implementation of its provisions.
- F.3 Urging all States that have not yet done so to become Party to the *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*; urging Parties to nominate appropriate natural areas for the World Heritage List and to ensure continuous monitoring of such sites in order to identify areas in danger and work towards their inclusion in the World Heritage in Danger List, to make the Convention fully effective, and further urging private organizations and individuals to contribute voluntarily to the World Heritage Fund;
- F.4 Urging national governments, non-governmental organizations and institutions to support and encourage Unesco's "Man and the Biosphere" programme vigorously;
- F.5 Recommending, with regard to the implementation and further development of international agreements relating to seabed emplacement and dumping at sea as well as national legislation, the establishment of criteria for the selection of potential disposal sites for radioactive and other toxic wastes, the establishment of comprehensive reference data bases and monitoring programmes, and the carrying out of adequate scientific research on such sites to ensure no serious harmful effects on the marine environment; further recommending the cessation of all other activities leading to the release of radioactivity in the marine environment until research has determined that such activities have no serious deleterious environmental effects; and
- F.6 Urging concerned States which have not yet done so to become Party to the *Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals*.